

The Times of India

Constable recruitment: Process under HC lens

CHANDIGARH: Recruitment of Haryana police constables, which had hit the headlines after three aspirants had died during a physical screening test (PST) in June, has now come under judicial scanner for alleged technical glitch in recording of timings of the race in biometric device leading to disqualification of thousands of candidates.

The Punjab and Haryana high court has been flooded with the petitions filed by hundreds of candidates alleging fault in the physical screening test result declared on August 8. The court would decide their fate on Friday. The candidates have alleged that they were disqualified in the test by Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) despite completion of race by them within stipulated time.

While conducting the PST, the HSSC had adopted radio frequency identification device and the entire process contained five stages. Each candidate was to complete a distance of 5km in a qualifying time of 25 minutes and for ex-servicemen, the race distance was 2.5 km to be completed in 13 minutes.

Main grouse of most of the candidates is that even though they had participated in the test distance of 5km and qualified the same within the prescribed time, they have been declared unqualified.

The staff selection commission, however, conceded the fact that most of the candidates had completed the race within the stipulated time but they were disqualified as they didn't complete final stage that included de-registration of the candidate by giving their thumb impression through biometric device on completing the race.

Considering large number of petitions raising similar issue, the HC has considered a petition filed by one Mohit Kumar of Hisar as a "test case" and directed the HSSC to permit him to view the video footage as regards final stage of the screening test so as to satisfy the petitioner and substantiate the stand taken by HSSC. In pursuance to HC directions, petitioner Mohit Kumar watched the video footage of selection process on Thursday at HSSC office in Panchkula and now a final decision regarding the fate of such candidates would be decided by the HC on Friday.

In July 2015, HSSC had invited applications for recruitment of 5,000 male constables (general duty). The selection process included physical screening test followed by knowledge test, physical measurement test and interview-cum-personality test. The PST was conducted from June 15 to July 23, 2016, at Kurukshetra and the result was declared on August 8.